

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 1023

you're recognized to open on LB 1023.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. This bill has existing statutory language which requires practicing veterinarians in this state to have graduated from "an accredited veterinary school." Accredited schools are defined as those recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association or approved by the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure upon the recommendation of the State Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. As a result, graduates of foreign schools which are neither recognized nor approved by either of those bodies are effectively prohibited from obtaining a Nebraska license. Nebraska is currently the only state in the nation that fails to make some provisions, by either statute or departmental regulations, to allow veterinarians who are schooled outside of the United States to practice here. Modeled after legislation in other states, LB 1023 is aimed at bringing Nebraska's laws up to date by creating a process by which foreign-trained veterinarians may qualify to practice in this state. The new language in the bill permits an applicant for a Nebraska veterinary license to show proof of either, number one, graduation from an accredited school of veterinary medicine or, number two, certification by the American Veterinary Medical Association Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates, and that body would certify that this applicant has demonstrated knowledge and skills equivalent to that possessed by a graduate of an accredited college of veterinary medicine, and such certification would be obtained by passing a comprehensive proficiency examination given by that organization. You had passed out to you earlier this morning a letter written to Senator Dierks and signed by Dr. John Cerny, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, who is the Chair of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. In that letter, I won't read it to you, but you have it, he gives the support of their organization for this bill. We have also received support from the Nebraska VMA, also the American VMA, and the Credentialing Division of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Dierks.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Dierks.